



**U.S. Department of Justice**  
Office of Information Policy  
Sixth Floor  
441 G Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

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Telephone: (202) 514-3642

Donald Stone  
MuckRock News  
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Somerville, MA 02144-2516  
[79369-41064933@requests.muckrock.com](mailto:79369-41064933@requests.muckrock.com)

Re: Appeal No. DOJ-AP-2020-000394  
Request No. DOJ-2019-006632  
MWH:RCS

**VIA: Email**

Dear Donald Stone:

You appealed from the action of the Initial Request Staff (IR Staff) of the Office of Information Policy on your Freedom of Information Act request for access to records concerning any policy issued by Attorney General William Barr exempting Department of Justice or Federal Bureau of Investigation officials from compliance with the District of Columbia and Virginia Rules of Professional Conduct. I note that your appeal concerns the adequacy of the search conducted by the IR Staff.

The IR Staff informed you that it could locate no responsive records subject to the FOIA in its files. I have determined that the IR Staff's action was correct and that it conducted an adequate, reasonable search for such records.

Please be advised that this Office's decision was made only after a full review of this matter. Your appeal was assigned to an attorney with this Office who thoroughly reviewed and analyzed your appeal, your underlying request, and the action of the IR Staff in response to your request.

If you are dissatisfied with my action on your appeal, the FOIA permits you to file a lawsuit in federal district court in accordance with 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(B).

For your information, the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) offers mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies as a non-exclusive alternative to litigation. Using OGIS services does not affect your right to pursue litigation. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, Room 2510, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001; email at [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov); telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769. If you have any questions regarding the

action this Office has taken on your appeal, you may contact this Office's FOIA Public Liaison for your appeal. Specifically, you may speak with the undersigned agency official by calling (202) 514-3642.

Sincerely,

11/7/2019

X 

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Matthew W. Hurd  
Acting Chief, Administrative Appeals Staff  
Signed by: MATTHEW HURD